

Adopted: October 28, 2003

**ACADEMIC SENATE
of
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY
San Luis Obispo, CA**

AS-605-03/EC

**RESOLUTION ON
LEED CERTIFICATION FOR STUDENT HOUSING NORTH**

1 WHEREAS, The Student Housing North project will have 2700 students; and

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3 WHEREAS, The Student Housing North project is the largest housing project in CSU history;
4 and

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6 WHEREAS, The Student Housing North project will dramatically affect both the campus and
7 the community; and

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9 WHEREAS, The College of Architecture and Environmental Design has a national reputation;
10 and

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12 WHEREAS, Cal Poly has committed itself to sustainable building practices and upholding
13 sound environmental practices; and

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15 WHEREAS, The U.S. Green Building Council has established the nationally recognized
16 leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building
17 certification system; therefore, be it

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19 RESOLVED: That Cal Poly seek LEED certification at the highest level feasible for the Student
20 Housing North project.

Proposed by: Academic Senate Executive Committee
Date: September 11, 2003
Revised: October 14, 2003

State of California

Memorandum

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SAN LUIS OBISPO
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ACADEMIC SENATE

To: George Lewis
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: January 16, 2004

From: 
Warren J. Baker
President

Copies: R. Detweiler, L. Kelley,
L. Dalton, R. Kitamura

Subject: Response to Senate Resolution AS-605-03/EC
Resolution on LEED Certification for Student Housing North

The intent of the Academic Senate and ASI resolutions on LEED certification are completely consistent with Cal Poly's commitment to environmentally responsible planning and design, as articulated in the campus Master Plan (approved in 2001). We welcome faculty and student support for our continuing efforts to construct environmentally sustainable projects. The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) criteria address site selection and planning (including transportation access), water, energy, building materials and indoor environmental quality. All of these are important issues for any project. The U.S. Green Building Council, which sponsors LEED certification, also recognizes that projects must meet the programmatic needs of the people who are going to occupy them, and that they have to be financially viable as well environmentally responsible.

We interpret the Academic Senate's call for LEED certification "at the highest level feasible" as acknowledgement of this balance (which has become known as the "triple bottom line"). And, indeed, this is the challenge that any Cal Poly project faces. What level of environmental sustainability can be achieved, given program needs and financing requirements?

For Student Housing North, this means that Cal Poly has to balance the quality of the living environment that is important to students and their ability to afford the rents required to pay for the facility. The planning that began in early 2003 identified a number of environmentally responsible features that are already incorporated in the site plan and schematic design approved by the CSU Board of Trustees in September 2003. All of these meet or exceed CSU standards, and many of these match items on the LEED checklist.

The Academic Senate and ASI have asked the campus to go a step further and seek official LEED certification. Because student housing is a self-supporting enterprise, the administrative costs associated with LEED certification would need to be incorporated in the financial analysis for the project. At this point, the schematic design has been approved by the Board and serves as the framework for the project. Facilities Planning and Capital Projects staff members are working with the College of Architecture and Environmental Design, as well as the Student Housing North design team, in an effort to determine how Cal Poly can best address the intent and realize the purposes of the Academic Senate and ASI resolutions, within the context of the plans approved to date.

As this process will continue to unfold, I have asked Facilities Planning and Capital Projects to keep the Academic Senate and ASI informed when more specific information becomes available.

Please express my appreciation to both the Academic Senate and the members of the Senate's Executive Committee for their efforts.